

**Kansas State University Faculty Senate
Faculty Affairs Committee
Minutes
December 6, 2016**

3:30 p.m. – Business Building 2138 (inside 2121)

In attendance: Charlie Barden, Kristan Corwin, Gayle Doll, Stephen Kucera, David Lehman, Jason Maseberg-Tomlinson, Char Simser, Jackie Spears, Brian Niehoff (Provost Liaison), Meredith Clark (Student TEVAL Rep), Charlotte Self (HCS Liaison), and Mick Charney (AA Liaison).

❖ The November 15, 2016 minutes were approved.

❖ Old Business

➤ Handbook Section C. Revisions have been sent to the provost's office this week.

➤ Student Evaluation System Working Group.

Our ZOOM guest, Dr. Carl Wieman from Stanford University, Nobel Prize winner in Physics, used his monetary award to support his passion for assessment of undergraduate education. He described a system he developed for assessment. More can be found in an article for CHANGE magazine:

<http://www.changemag.org/Archives/Back%20Issues/2015/January-February%202015/better-way-full.html>.

He explained that course evaluation is meant to be a system that drives improvement in teaching but what is lacking is a system that people feel is a fair, reflecting what they are doing in instruction but that can also provide guidance in what to do to be better. He believes that certain practices are consistently correlated with improved student learning. If we can do a better job of defining these practices and trying to include them in the evaluation it should lead to better instruction. He's developed an instructor self-report inventory that takes ten minutes to fill out. The inventory was designed for STEM courses but some are trying to make adaptations for engineering and social sciences. This tool is for faculty rather than students. There has been some discussion about a student version. He tried to make a tool but it didn't work so well—it revealed that a fair number of students were not aware of the components that were involved in a class. He knows of no university that has replaced student evaluations with this tool. When asked if faculty report accurately especially when promotion and tenure are attached Wieman stated that there is a way to check. In the discussion that followed the conversation with Dr. Wieman, Senator Spears viewed the tool as a nice framework for department heads to use for additional information beyond the 30% recommended for student feedback. Brian Niehoff summarized 5 areas for deliverables: 1) policy: should we keep the all courses evaluated policy? Should it be sent back to SGA? Should we continue to pursue the policy that all evaluations go to department heads (another issue that had come from Student Senate)? Should we request general counsel to find out if this is a legal issue? 2) Practice issues. Should we standardize the way evaluation is done? 3) Departmental documents. How much weight should student evaluations take? What other assessments could be used? 4) Faculty education. 5) Student education. Two keys areas are making sure that students have the opportunity to provide feedback and to improve teaching and learning. Using the Weimer tool might be a part of faculty education. Senator Charney mentioned that some institutions are going beyond the typical 3 areas for tenure and promotion (research, teaching and extension) to expand to include professional development. This might include a reflection that shows how the employee implemented the things learned from a conference. Brian Niehoff will write up some of these thoughts and send them to us.

Stephen Kucera had brought this to SGA. After a brief presentation he solicited comments and heard the following: Students like having all classes evaluated every year. They think some improvements could be made, i.e. mid-semester evaluations and better implementation of "every course—every semester". It was mentioned that they want the evaluations sent to supervisors. Students don't seem to know how student course

evaluations are used. They did state that they were more likely to do paper than online because it is in class time.

- A senate resolution for solar eclipse, August 21, 2017 was read requesting that classes be delayed at the start of the semester. This resolution will be brought to faculty senate next week.

- ❖ New Business: Discussion about meeting scheduling.
- ❖ Next Meeting: January 17, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. (Business Building 2138)
- ❖ The meeting was adjourned.